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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EWING].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 5, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable THOMAS W. EWING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Douglas Tanner, executive director, Faith and Politics Institute, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our creator, sustainer, and redeemer: We come before You mindful of what You require of us * * * to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with You. Yet we know that these are hardly the hallmarks of political life. We confuse justice with vengeance; we mistake kindness for weakness; we favor running proudly over walking humbly.

We know that we have been chosen as representatives, but we are often unsure about whether to seek to represent the best that is within our constituents and within ourselves, or to settle for the easier task of representing the baser instincts that reside within all of us.

Strengthen us. Give us the wisdom to recognize the qualities You require of Your servants, and grant us this day, we pray, the courage to risk embodying those qualities in an environment that often mitigates against it. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. MILLER of California moves that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER].

The motion was rejected.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

MORNING 1-MINUTE SPEECHES SERVE IMPORTANT FUNCTION

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, a time-honored tradition in this body is now under attack. I am speaking of that period, this time right now, set aside each day for one-minute speeches.

It has been a long practice for Members to come to the well of the Chamber each morning to speak briefly about pending legislation, a tribute to a group or individual back in their district, or a soon-to-be introduced bill. Sadly, some would like to move those speeches to the end of the legislative day, I believe to stifle debate. I, like many of my colleagues, strenuously oppose that idea.

One-minute speeches often give Members, particularly junior Members, a chance to speak when they otherwise might not have the opportunity to do so. As my colleagues know, a freshman or a sophomore Member might sit at a committee meeting for 2 hours before being able to pose one question to a witness. He or she, if lucky, might get 30 seconds to debate a pending bill on the floor. One-minute speeches give these Members and the people they represent back home a chance to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, let us not silence Members of this body. Let us not stifle debate. Let us not kill the one-minute speeches.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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